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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05124 061456Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------070951 061459Z /47
R 051629Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2030

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EXDIS
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MSG DOWNGRADED FROM NODIS PER ORIGINATOR)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER
SUBJ: EVALUATIONS BY CHIEFS OF MISSION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF: STATE 154335

1. I HAVE MADE AN INTENSIVE EFFORT TO KEEP STAFFING DOWN AT THIS POST, WITH SOMEWHAT MIXED RESULTS. SINCE PORTUGAL HAS RECENTLY BEEN A COUNTRY IN CRISIS, VIRTUALLY EVERY AGENCY HERE HAS PROPOSED TO ME SOME STAFFING INCREASE DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT AGENCIES HAVE SOUGHT, WHAT ACTUALLY TRANSPIRED, AND MY PERSONAL EVALUATION OF THEIR CURRENT LEVELS. GIVEN THE SHORT TIME FRAME FOR REPLY TO REFTEL AND MY DEPARTURE FOR OPORTO TODAY (JULY 5), THIS IS A TOP-OF-THE-HEAD ASSESSMENT. I SUGGEST THAT IT BE TREATED AS SUCH AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISH A SYSTEM TO ENABLE AMBASSADORS TO DEAL WITH THE STAFFING ISSUE ON A CONTINUING, RATHER THAN A ONE-SHOT, BASIS.

2. DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE: VARIOUS INCREASES HAVE BEEN PROPOSED, ALL OF WHICH I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY REJECTED THROUGH DEFENSE CHANNELS. IN ADDITION, THE POSITION OF
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ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE HAS RECENTLY BEEN ELIMINATED WITH MY CONCURRENCE. THE ATTACHE STAFF IS ABOUT AT THE RIGHT LEVEL, ALTHOUGH A CLOSE ANALYSIS OF DOD-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS MIGHT ENABLE US TO REDUCE RESEARCH AND SUPPORT STAFF BY PERHAPS ONE PERSON. THIS ANALYSIS COULD BEST BE DONE ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS.

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3. MAAG: THE MAAG HAS CONSISTENTLY ARGUED FOR MORE
STAFF ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM -- AN
INCREASE IN MAP FUNDS FROM $1 TO $32 MILLION IN ONE YEAR --
WILL IMPOSE GREATLY INCREASED WORKLOADS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDG-
ING THIS, I HAVE REJECTED THE MAAG REQUESTS. EUCOM HAS
SUPPORTED MY POSITION. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE MAAG STAFF
IS ADEQUATE, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL BE EXTREMELY BUSY DURING THE
NEXT TWO YEARS.

4. ALVERCA: A SEVEN-MAN US NAVY DETACHMENT IS DETAILED TO
THE ALVERCA MILITARY AIRCRAFT REPAIR FACILITY NEAR LISBON.
OUR PARTICIPATION COULD, OF COURSE, BE ENDED, BUT THE
PORTUGUESE HAVE STRONGLY URGED US TO CONTINUE IT.
FAILURE TO RENEW NAVY REPAIR CONTRACTS WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT
ADVERSE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS. I WOULD, HOWEVER, WELCOME
A DOD SURVEY TO SEE IF THE STAFFING LEVEL OF SEVEN IS
JUSTIFIABLE. I DO NOT HAVE THE TECHNICAL COMPETENCE TO
MAKE THAT JUDGMENT ON THE GROUND HERE.

5. MARINE SECURITY GUARDS: I AGREED TO AN INCREASE
IN MARINE GUARDS FROM 6 TO 10 TO MEET THE OBVIOUS
SECURITY NEEDS OF 1975/76. IF THE SITUATION CONTINUES
STABLE, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THIS A BIT.

6. AID: I RESISTED AID EFFORTS FOR SUBSTANTIAL
INCREASES DURING 1976. AID/WASHINGTON HAD PROPOSED
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A STAFFING LEVEL OF TEN. I ARGUED FOR KEEPING THE
STAFF AT ITS EXISTING LEVEL OF THREE, BUT AID/W
FORMALLY STATED IT COULD NOT GO FORWARD WITH THE
PROGRAM UNLESS I RECONSIDERED. WE COMPROMISED ON
THREE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS FOR A TOTAL OF SIX. THAT REMAINS THE
STAFFING LEVEL FOR A PROGRAM OF APPROXIMATELY $75 MILLION.
I CONSIDER THAT ADEQUATE, ALTHOUGH I AM TOLD THAT
THIS RATIO IS MUCH LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE.

7. USIS: USIS STAFFING HAS INCREASED ONLY SLIGHTLY DESPITE
A LARGE EXPANSION IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND THE
INAUGURATION OF A MASS DISTRIBUTION MAGAZINE WHICH
USIS LISBON PARTLY WRITES AND EDITS. AT FIVE AMERICANS
FOR A PROGRAM LEVEL OF ABOUT $700,000, I DO NOT
CONSIDER USIS TO BE OVERSTAFFED.

8. FAS: WE HAVE ONLY ONE AMERICAN, WHICH IS PROBABLY
THE MINIMUM WE CAN DO WITH, GIVEN A PL 480 PROGRAM
RUNNING ABOUT $60 MILLION PER YEAR AND CCC OF OVER $100 MILLION.

9. STATE: STATE COMPLEMENT WAS DECREASED BY ONE FROM
38 TO 37 IN 1976. WE HAVE REPROGRAMMED ONE POSITION

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FROM POL TO ECON, AND I THINK WE ABOUT RIGHT -- THOUGH LEAN --
ON THE SUBSTANTIVE SIDE. ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE, WE
ARE FALLING BEHIND IN OUR CAPACITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT
TO OTHER AGENCIES. I BELIEVE THE RESTORATION
OF THE ELIMINATED PERSONNEL OFFICER POSITION IS
JUSTIFIED. STATE STAFFING WAS DEALT WITH IN THE
PARM, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE A WASHINGTON REACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON05124
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840083-0607, N770004-0126
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770792/aaaadcff.tel
Line Count: 124
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: ea215171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 154335
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1968142
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVALUATIONS BY CHIEFS OF MISSION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS
TAGS: APER, OGEN, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ea215171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009